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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF

STATE AID AND PENSIONS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30,

1934



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JANUARY 15, 1935.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:

In conformity with the requirements of Chapter 115, Section 2, General Laws, I herewith submit to your honorable bodies the annual report of the Department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and Military Aid and burials being for the year 1933, and that portion relating to Hospital or Home Care and United States pensions covering the year 1934.

Very respectfully,
RICHARD R. FLYNN,
Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES

Disbursements of State and Military Aid to soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and their dependents, and for the burial of soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and army nurses, by 264 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during 1933—reimbursement being due and payable to the disbursing municipalities on or before November 10, 1934—were as follows:

State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Civil War.....	\$93,546.60
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Indian Campaigns.....	1,742.00
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, War with Spain.....	38,561.00
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Philippine Service.....	12,890.50
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Mexican Border Service.....	110.00
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, German War.....	219,363.90
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Civil War.....	185.50
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, War with Spain.....	1,885.00
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Philippine Service.....	2,868.00
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Mexican Border Service.....	2,794.23
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, German War.....	73,751.41
Burial expenses of soldiers and their dependents.....	8,716.90
Total for 1933	\$456,415.04

These figures show an increase of \$38,878.30 over 1932, which is due to the financial depression and unemployment conditions.

State Aid

The total number of State Aid recipients, Civil War, for 1933, was 959, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 89; decrease, 35	Widows, 849; decrease, 143
Wives, 1; decrease, 1	Children, 20; decrease, 1
Total	959

Net decrease of recipients during 1933, 180
Average cost to State per person aided, \$97.54+

The total number of recipients of State Aid, Indian Campaign Service, for 1933, was 18, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 7; decrease, 4	Widows, 10; increase, 2
Wives, 1	
Total	18

Net decrease of recipients during 1933, 2
Average cost to State per person aided, \$96.77+

The total number of recipients of State Aid, Spanish War, for 1933, was 468, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 244; increase, 72	Widows, 187; increase, 15
Wives, 14; increase, 4	Mothers, 23; increase, 1
	Army Nurses, 0; decrease, 1

Total	468
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Net decrease of recipients during 1933, 91

Average cost to State per person aided, \$82.39+

The total number of State Aid recipients, Philippine Insurrection, for 1933, was 165, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 92; increase, 6	Widows, 62; increase, 10
Wives, 1; increase, 1	Mothers, 10

Total	165
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Net increase of recipients during 1933, 17

Average cost to State per person aided, \$78.12+

The total number of State Aid recipients, Mexican Border Service, for 1933, was 1, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 1

Total	1
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$110.00

The total number of State Aid recipients, War with Germany, for 1933, was 3,118, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 2,251; increase, 474	Mothers, 49; increase, 7
Yeoman F., 2; increase, 1	Fathers, 2; increase, 1
Wives, 193; increase, 45	Children, 54; decrease, 5
Widows, 564; increase, 118	Army Nurses, 3; increase, 1

Total	3,118
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Net increase of recipients during 1933, 642

Average cost to State per person aided \$70.35+

Military Aid

Military Aid to the amount of \$81,484.14, an increase of \$36,790.70 over 1932, was disbursed as follows:

Civil War soldiers, 2

Spanish War soldiers, 45; increase, 40

Philippine Insurrection soldiers, 61; increase, 55

Mexican Border Service soldiers, 20

German War soldiers, 876; increase, 421

German War Yeoman F., 2; increase, 1

<i>Civil War</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2	\$185.50
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$92.75

<i>Spanish War</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2	1,885.00
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$41.88+

<i>Philippine Ins. Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2	2,808.00
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$46.80

Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 60.00

Average cost to State per person aided, \$60.00

<i>Mexican Border Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2	2,794.23
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$139.71+

<i>German War Service</i> :—Amount expended, Classes 1 and 2	73,047.41
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Average cost to State per person aided, \$83.57+

Amount expended, Classes 3 and 4 704.00

Average cost to State per person aided, \$176.00

Total	\$81,484.14
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Burials

During the year 1933, 95 burial claims were approved at an expense to the Commonwealth of \$8,716.90, an increase of \$3,327.98 over 1932. They are classified as follows:

Civil War:—			
Soldiers	7	Decrease	2
Widows	40	Increase	7
Total	47		
Indian Campaigns:—			
Soldiers	1	Increase	1
Widows	2	Increase	2
Total	3		
Spanish War:—			
Soldiers	17	Increase	7
Widows	5	Increase	4
Mothers	0	Decrease	1
Total	22		
Philippine Insurrection:—			
Soldiers	1		
Widows	0	Decrease	2
Mothers	1	Increase	1
Total	2		
Mexican Border Service:—			
Soldiers	0	Decrease	1
Widows	0	Decrease	1
Total	0		
German War:—			
Soldiers	7	Increase	5
Wives	6	Increase	3
Widows	1		
Mothers	6	Increase	5
Fathers	1	Increase	1
Total	21		

Net increase during 1933, 29.

Average cost to State per burial, \$91.75 +

The State burial law has been amended by Chapter 336, Acts of 1934, to make eligible for consideration thereunder the cases of certain dependent children of certain veterans. A copy of the amended burial law is printed below.

THE STATE BURIAL LAW

Relative to the Burial of Indigent Soldiers, their Wives, Widows or Dependent Mothers or Fathers, and Dependent Children, under Chapter 115, General Laws, as amended by Chapters 250 and 251, Acts of 1932, and Chapter 336, Acts of 1934.

Section 19. The mayor of each city and the selectmen of each town or, in Boston, the soldiers' relief commissioner, shall designate a burial agent, who shall not be one of the board of public welfare or be employed by said board, and who shall, under regulations established by the commissioner, cause properly to be interred the body of any honorably discharged soldier or sailor who served in the army or navy of the United States during the War of the Rebellion, or in the Indian Campaigns if he died in receipt of a pension from the United States, or during the war between the United States and Spain or the Philippine Insurrection after February fourteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and prior to July fourth, nineteen hundred and two, or in the Mexican border service of nineteen hundred and sixteen and of nineteen hundred and seventeen, or in the world war; provided, that the soldier or sailor

died in such service or after an honorable discharge therefrom or release from active duty therein; and shall also so inter the body of his wife, widow or dependent father or mother, and the bodies of army nurses entitled to state aid under section six, if they die without sufficient means to defray funeral expenses, and the bodies of dependent children eighteen years of age or under, of such soldier or sailor, if such soldier or sailor and his wife, or his widow, be without sufficient means to defray funeral expenses; but no wife or widow of any soldier or sailor of the civil war shall be entitled to the benefits of this section unless she was married to him prior to June twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and ninety, and no wife or widow of any soldier of the Indian Campaigns unless she was married to him prior to March fourth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and unless she was, if his widow, in receipt of a pension under the act of congress of March fourth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and no wife or widow of any soldier or sailor of the Spanish War, or the Philippine Insurrection, unless she was married to him prior to September first, nineteen hundred and twenty-two; and no wife or widow of any soldier or sailor of the Mexican border service or of the world war unless she was married to him on or before January first, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight. If an interment has taken place without the knowledge of the burial agent, application may be made to him within thirty days after the date of death, or after final interment if the soldier or sailor dies in the world war service; and if upon investigation he shall find that the deceased was within the provisions of this section and the rules of the commissioner, he may certify the same as provided in the following section.

Section 20. The amount of the allowance for a burial as aforesaid, in the case of a soldier, sailor, wife, widow, dependent father or mother or army nurse, shall not exceed one hundred dollars, and in the case of a dependent child, fifty dollars, two dollars of which shall be paid as compensation to the burial agent causing the interment to be made; but if the total expense of the burial, by whomsoever incurred, in the case of a soldier, sailor, wife, widow, dependent father or mother or army nurse, shall exceed two hundred and fifty dollars, or in the case of a child, one hundred and fifty dollars, no payment therefor shall be made by the commonwealth. The burial shall not be made in any cemetery or burial ground used exclusively for the burial of persons buried under the provisions of chapter one hundred and seventeen, or in any part of any cemetery or burial ground so used. Relatives of the deceased who are unable to bear the expense of burial may be allowed to conduct the funeral. The full amount so expended, the name of the deceased soldier or sailor, the regiment, company, station, organization or vessel in which he served, the date of death, place of interment, and in case of a wife or widow the name of the husband and date of marriage, and in the case of a dependent child the name of the father, and such other details as the commissioner may require, shall be certified on oath to him, in such manner as he may approve, by the burial agent and the treasurer of the town expending the amount, within three months after the burial; and the commissioner shall endorse upon the certificate his allowance of such amounts as he finds have been paid, and reported according to the foregoing provisions, and shall transmit the certificate to the comptroller. The amounts legally paid and so allowed, with no expense for disbursement, shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth to the several towns on or before November tenth in the year after the expenditures have been made. *Approved June 27, 1934.*

HOSPITAL OR HOME CARE OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS, THEIR WIVES AND WIDOWS UNDER CHAPTER 340, ACTS OF 1929

The following is a table of beneficiaries and amounts paid under this Chapter from December 1, 1933, to November 30, 1934:

	<i>Soldiers</i>	<i>Widows</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Amount</i>
December	2	95	97	\$3,092.00
January	3	97	100	3,153.00
February	3	97	100	3,118.00
March	3	94	97	3,022.00
April	3	100	103	3,221.47

May	3	100	103	3,195.00
June	2	95	97	2,890.66
July	1	100	101	3,003.61
August	1	97	98	2,907.00
September	1	92	93	2,721.00
October	1	89	90	2,505.00
November	1	95	96	2,735.48

Total \$35,564.22

These figures show a decrease of \$4,940.55 from the expenditures for 1933.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The receipts and expenditures of this department for 1934, are as follows:

Receipts

Amounts assessed on cities and towns on account of special care of Civil War veterans, their wives and widows, under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929	\$18,814.96
Reimbursement for agents' services under Chapter 270, Acts of 1932	1,008.06
State Aid refunds, 1934	120.00
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	\$19,943.02

Expenditures

Personal services of Commissioner and Deputies, agents, clerks and stenographers, and incidental and contingent expenses ..	39,128.59
Reimbursement to cities and towns for State and Military Aid and burial of soldiers and sailors and their dependents on account of 1933, paid in 1934	456,415.04
Special Care for Civil War veterans, their wives and widows under Chapter 340, Acts 1929	35,564.22
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	\$531,107.85

The total expenditures by the Commonwealth for State and Military Aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors and their dependents, including maintenance and improvements of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts and on account of special laws, from 1861 to the close of 1933, were approximately \$91,500,000.00.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR REIMBURSEMENT FUND

During the year 1934, the sum of \$468.25 was expended from the Spanish-American War Reimbursement Fund,—Chapter 280, Acts of 1928—leaving a balance of \$201.62 on December 1, 1934.

PERSONNEL

Col. Thomas F. Tierney, Surgeon-General of the Commonwealth, has rendered excellent service to this department in his medical examinations of the cases of veterans and in giving us detailed reports of their disabilities, and we are indebted to him for his hearty cooperation. Owing to the present unemployment conditions and the reductions in pensions, his duties in examining Military Aid cases have materially increased.

Our agents made 6,652 examinations during 1934, as follows: 6,154 cases under the State and Military Aid law were investigated; 192 cases under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929, were investigated; 240 Soldiers' Relief cases required investigation by this department; 62 Soldiers' Relief cases were investigated at the request of municipal authorities; and 4 burial cases required special investigation.

The cities and towns have cooperated with us heartily in their consideration of veterans and their dependents during the depression, and we wish to extend to them our appreciation of their efforts.

PENSION DIVISION

The total number of United States pension claims filed during the year ending December 31, 1934, was 429, classified as follows:

Soldiers, Act June 9, 1930, Civil War, Increase	5
Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Original	5
Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Increase	1
Soldiers, Act March 20, 1933, Spanish War, Original	82
Soldiers, Act March 20, 1933, Spanish War, Increase	17
Soldiers, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War, Original	28
Soldiers, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War, Increase	54
Widows Accrued	5
Widows, Act May 1, 1920, amended by Act June 9, 1930, Civil War	26
Widows, Act March 20, 1933, Spanish War	28
Widows, Act March 28, 1934, Spanish War	62
Widows, Act March 3, 1927, Indian War	3
Widows, Act June 28, 1934, World War	6
Wives, Excess Pension, Act March 20, 1933	23
Wives, Apportioned Pension, Act March 28, 1934	10
Mothers	3
Fathers	1
Guardians	16
Helpless Children	2
Reimbursement	32
Unendorsed Checks	15
Certificates in lieu of lost discharge	4
Medal of Honor Certificate	1
Total	429
Number of claims allowed	172
Number of claims rejected	27
Amount collected	\$28,871.92

To date a number of claims filed during the year have not as yet been reached for final action in the Veterans' Administration.

On March 28, 1934, Congress passed the Independent Offices Appropriation bill for 1935, which became effective as of that date and made certain provisions for restoration of compensation and pension to veterans, as follows:

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in no event shall the compensation being paid on March 19, 1933, under subsections (3) and (5) of section 202 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, to veterans for the loss of the use of both eyes, where such veterans were, except by fraud, mistake, or misrepresentation, in receipt of compensation on March 19, 1933, be reduced or discontinued, except in accordance with the regulations issued under the Act entitled "An Act to maintain the credit of the United States Government", approved March 20, 1933, pertaining to hospitalized cases.

Where service connection for a disease, injury, or disability not caused by his own willful misconduct was on March 19, 1933, established in accordance with section 200 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, and such connection has been severed through the application of, or regulations or instructions promulgated under Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, or Public Law Numbered 78, Seventy-third Congress, service connection is hereby reestablished and as to such cases the provisions of the first paragraph of section 200 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, are hereby reenacted: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to persons entering the active military or naval service subsequent to the date of November 11, 1918.

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, no pension being paid on March 19, 1933, to any veteran of the Spanish American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine

Insurrection, or to the widow as long as she remains unmarried and/or dependents of any such veteran, shall be reduced by more than 25 per centum, except in accordance with the regulations issued pursuant to Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, pertaining to hospitalized cases and except where his disability is the result of his own willful misconduct: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply (1) to persons to whom payments were being made on March 19, 1933, through fraud, clear or unmistakable error as to conclusions of fact or law or misrepresentation of a material fact, except that decisions as to degree of disability rendered prior to March 20, 1933, shall be conclusive, or (2) to any person during any year following a year for which such person was not entitled to exemption from the payment of a Federal income tax: Provided, however, That a veteran in Federal employ shall not receive more than \$6 per month if his salary if single, exceeds \$1,000, and if married, \$2,500: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to any person who enlisted after August 12, 1898, and who did not serve in either the Boxer Rebellion or the Philippine Insurrection.

All laws in effect on March 19, 1933, granting monetary benefits to veterans of the Spanish-American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, are hereby reenacted in their entirety, and such laws shall be effective from and after the effective date of this Act, subject to the limitation of this section and to such reduction in pensions as may be made hereunder.

On June 28, 1934, an Act was approved which provided that the surviving widow, child or children of any deceased person who served in the World War before November 12, 1918, or if the person was serving with the United States military forces in Russia before April 2, 1920, who, while receiving or entitled to receive compensation, pension, or retirement pay for 30 per-centum disability or more directly incurred in or aggravated by service in the World War, dies or has died from a disease or disability not service connected and not the result of the person's own misconduct shall, upon filing application and such proofs in the Veterans' Administration as the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs may prescribe, be entitled to receive compensation: Provided, That the provision of this Act shall not apply to any person during any year following a year for which such person was not entitled to exemption from the payment of a Federal income tax.

All persons on the rolls were required to furnish on the form authorized by the Administration a sworn statement giving full and definite information relative to service, hospitalization, income, etc., in order that title to benefits of awards of pension and compensation in accordance with the acts may be determined by the Veterans' Administration.

Through the courtesy and cooperation of General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Mr. E. L. Bailey, Director of Widows' and Dependents' Claims Service and Mr. George E. Brown, Director of Veterans' Claims Service, we have been able to assist and advise veterans and their dependents in the matter of title to pension in accordance with the said Acts.

Our appreciation is extended to them, and also to Colonel William J. Blake of the local office of the United States Veterans' Administration, and his staff, for their assistance and cooperation.